

HONORING CORRECTIONS OFFICER
CHRIS WILSON AND SERGEANT
JOSEPH DEMATTEO

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Police Week, I would like to recognize the bravery of two law enforcement officers from my district whose heroic acts were honored this week by Corrections USA, a leading national voice for correctional officers.

It is said that correctional officers "patrol law enforcement's toughest beat," and nothing could be truer. Everyday, these officers work to keep violent felons behind bars and put their lives at risk to ensure that our families can feel safe in our homes and on our streets. The work they do is critical to the safety of our communities, and their sacrifices exemplify the spirit of public service.

Far too often these sacrifices go unnoticed, but on Monday May 10th, Corrections U.S.A. honored some of these extraordinary public servants at their Medal of Valor Awards Ceremony. Each of the award recipients went beyond the call of duty, putting their lives in jeopardy in order to save the life of another. They all responded admirably to the crises they faced, and demonstrated the true strength of their character. I was pleased and honored to join Corrections USA in recognizing the courage of these fine officers, and would like to take this opportunity to share the stories of two of my constituents who were honored at this event.

On July 16, 2003, Corrections Officer Chris Wilson quickly came to the aid of one of his colleagues at the Middlesex County Adult Correction Center in North Brunswick, New Jersey, saving him from a severe beating at the hands of an inmate. Mr. Wilson immediately responded to fellow Officer Tim Morris's distress call and found him being attacked by an inmate. Mr. Wilson restrained the inmate and spared Mr. Morris from further injury. Officer Wilson received a Gold Medal of Valor for stopping this brutal attack.

Sergeant Joseph DeMatteo, a 22-year veteran of the Middlesex County Adult Correction Center, demonstrated his strength of character by assisting victims of a car accident he witnessed on his way to work. On July 23, 2003, Sergeant DeMatteo saw an SUV flipping over a small car, and quickly rushed to the scene to help. Because of his experience as a volunteer fire fighter and first aid responder, he assisted the driver in the first car, who was pinned from the chest down under the car's motor. When he noticed flames in the second car, Sergeant DeMatteo left the first driver in the care of another individual assisting at the scene and rushed to the other car. Sergeant DeMatteo and another individual were able to break the windows of the car and move the injured driver to a safe spot on the grass. Once the driver was stabilized, Sergeant DeMatteo went back to the other driver that was still trapped in his car. He stayed with the driver and helped keep him calm until emergency workers arrived to release him. Sergeant DeMatteo received the Life Saving Award for his efforts.

I commend the bravery of these individuals and extend my heartfelt gratitude to correc-

tional officers across the country for their service to our communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House on Thursday, May 6th, due to an unavoidable commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way; rollcall vote 147, H. Res. 628, providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 627) "yea"; rollcall vote 148, H.R. 2443, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2003 "yea"; and rollcall vote 149, H. Res. 402, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the urgent need for freedom, democratic reform, and international monitoring of elections, human rights, and religious liberty in the Lao People's Democratic Republic "yea."

On rollcall vote 150, H. Res. 627, deploring the abuse of persons in the United States custody in Iraq, regardless of the circumstances of their detention, urging the Secretary of the Army to bring to swift justice any member of the Armed Forces who has violated the Uniform Code of Military Justice, expressing the deep appreciation of the Nation to the courageous and honorable members of the Armed Forces who have selflessly served, or are currently serving, in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and for other purposes "yea."

On rollcall vote 151, H. Con. Res. 326, expressing the sense of Congress regarding the arbitrary detention of Dr. Wang Bingzhang by the Government of the People's Republic of China and urging his immediate release "yea"; and rollcall vote 152, H. Res. 398, expressing the concern of Congress over Iran's development of the means to produce nuclear weapons "yea."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TOM WIENS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Tom Wiens, and thank him for his extraordinary contributions to the State of Colorado as a member of the Colorado General Assembly. Elected to serve the people of District 45 in 2002, he will be remembered as a legislator with the utmost dedication and talent, and will continue to be known as a leader in the community. As he moves on in his career, let it be known that I, along with people of Colorado, are eternally grateful for all that he has accomplished in his tenure in the Colorado House of Representatives.

A businessman and rancher, Tom grew up on his family's historic ranch where they raise hay and cattle, and breed champion cutting horses. During his time at the State House, he has served on the Business Affairs and Labor Committee, and the Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee. His work as a legislator garnered him the Freshman Legis-

lator of the Year award in 2003 by the Independent Bankers of Colorado, and the Colorado Fire Chiefs Association made him an honorary member.

While Tom has effectively served the people of Douglas and Teller Counties in the General Assembly, he has stayed an active participant in the community. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Children's Hospital Research Foundation, and is a member of the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo Association. He is involved with parent organizations at Douglas County High School and Larkspur Elementary, works with several faith-based community outreach programs, and is a member of Cherry Hills Community Church. He also has served as a volunteer police chaplain and is a former Director of the Colorado Ski Museum and Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that State Representative Tom Wiens has ceaselessly dedicated his time and efforts to serving his district and the people of Colorado. It is his incredible devotion along with his passion for contributing towards the betterment of his community and the State of Colorado that I wish to bring before this body of Congress and this nation. It is my distinct pleasure to recognize Tom here today, and wish him and his wife Diana all the best in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO IFE-S. CHARLES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Ife-S. Charles in recognition of her commitment to community empowerment.

Ife-S. Charles was born in Trinidad, West Indies and immigrated to the Prospect Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York 30 plus years ago. She attended Holy Spirit Junior High School, Brooklyn Technical High School in Fort Greene and later went on to earn a degree in Human Services. Ife currently resides in the community of Crown Heights with her daughter.

She is a New York State Certified Mediator specializing in Community, Family and Parent Teen Mediation. She is the Deputy Director at the Crown Heights Community Mediation Center (CHCMC) located on Kingston Avenue in Crown Heights. Her job at CHCMC gives her the opportunity to work with youth and families in her neighborhood. She works closely with the 71st and 77th Precinct Youth and Community Affairs Officers, where she conducts Conflict Resolution Workshops at Empowerment Programs offered by the precincts. She has trained youths in peer mediation and conflict resolution. She is the Director of the 77th Community Task Force which is an effort to enhance community and police relationships.

Ife subscribes to her own E3 philosophy: Enlight; Enrich and Effect. This is a philosophy that she uses in her work with the community and youth. Her attraction to community work is part of who she is which is why she enjoys serving as a motivational speaker at local churches and community centers. Ife can be seen speaking to the young women and men of the community where she gives them words of encouragement or directs them to organizations for their own self-improvement. On any